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Chairperson: Mr. Mohamed Cherif Diallo (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Guinea)

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In the absence of Mr. Park In-kook (Republic of Korea), Mr. Mohamed Cherif Diallo (Guinea), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 53: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/64/259, A/64/83-E/2009/83, A/64/83/Add.1-E/2009/83/Add.1, A/64/81, A/64/65, A/C.2/64/91 and A/C.2/64/101)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*continued*) (A/64/275, A/64/274, A/64/258, A/64/169 and A/64/301)

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(h) Sustainable mountain development (*continued*) (A/64/222)

(i) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (*continued*) (A/64/277)

1. **Ms. Coye-Felson** (Belize), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that both the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States were fundamental components of the overall sustainable development framework. CARICOM welcomed the General Assembly's decision to convene a high-level review conference to take stock of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and decide on action to further address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States. In addition to considering national assessment reports, the conference should also assess action taken at the subregional and global levels to integrate the issues affecting those States in the broader sustainable development framework. The Secretary-General should prepare a report with a thorough assessment of implementation of the Strategy, and the international community should provide relevant information to assist with the final review. The preparatory process outlined in the Secretary-General's report (A/64/278) was crucial, and CARICOM feared that the Secretariat was not doing enough to lay the groundwork for the preparatory process. The Committee should agree on a date for the conference in September 2010 and issue a firm mandate to the United Nations system to take immediate steps to ensure that the necessary arrangements for the preparatory meetings and the high-level conference were put in place, and Member States should receive the necessary assistance for the preparation and timely submission of their national assessment reports. She recognized that some Governments had already responded positively to appeals for contributions to the trust fund established to support the Mauritius Strategy process and urged the widest participation and support from the international community in the process leading up to the review conference.

2. A regional Climate Change Strategic Framework had emerged from the thirtieth meeting of CARICOM Heads of State and Government, held in Guyana in July 2009, and the Community's Declaration on Climate Change called for ambitious and decisive action to address adaptation and capacity-building, mitigation targets to limit average global surface temperature increases to well below 1.5 degrees Centigrade, and the establishment of a well-financed framework to address the adaptation needs of the most vulnerable countries. At the Summit of the Alliance of Small Island States in September 2009, CARICOM Heads of State and of Government had elaborated their expectations for the Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009. It had unanimously agreed that avoidance of adverse climate change impacts on small island developing States

should be one of the key benchmarks for assessing the action needed for a global response, and that parties to annex I of the Framework Convention on Climate Change should reduce their collective greenhouse gas emissions by more than 45 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, and more than 95 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050.

3. The slow pace of climate change negotiations and diminutive ambition exhibited by negotiators was serious cause for alarm. The Committee should issue a strong, urgent call to all leaders to muster the necessary political will and conclude an effective and legally binding agreement which should place adaptation and mitigation on an equal footing and provide necessary and adequate funding and transfer of technology. The agreement should be based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capability, and take into account the best scientific evidence available.

4. CARICOM member States were highly dependent on imported petroleum and petroleum products, and thus highly vulnerable to the volatility of the energy market, which threatened access, affordability and energy security. They were also concerned about the negative environmental, climate and social impact linked to the use of fossil fuels. A regional energy programme, aimed at significantly increasing the use of renewable energy, sought a coordinated renewable energy development approach and was mandated to develop and implement a sustainable energy roadmap and strategy. CARICOM was also collaborating with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme in a new project to assist small island developing States in developing a sustainable energy sector.

5. A strong international framework was needed to support the research, development and deployment of renewable energy technologies through appropriate policies, incentives and resources. The General Assembly should emphasize the importance of renewable energy for sustainable development and focus on action to raise awareness of the potential of renewable energy; to improve access and affordability particularly for the most vulnerable; to give incentives for research, development and deployment of renewable energy technologies and encourage appropriate policies at all levels to that end; and to encourage adequate sustained financing and consider innovative ways for further promotion of the renewable energy sector.

6. **Mr. Jiménez Sauma** (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that challenges remained to the achievement of truly sustainable development based on the three development pillars: economic, social and environmental. In that respect, he hoped that the Committee could reach a consensus during its current session on Brazil's proposal to hold a "Rio + 20" summit, which had great policy merit and could lead to tangible results. The Rio Group looked forward to discussing, at the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, its experience in the areas of transportation, chemicals, waste management, mining and production patterns and sustainable consumption, all of which were equally important and must be addressed in a balanced way in the debates and in the Secretary-General's reports. The Group would also be participating actively in the Commission's Regional Implementation Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Antigua, Guatemala, in November 2009.

7. In order to achieve a reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, the international community must demonstrate a high level of commitment to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. In that respect, he drew attention to decision IX/20 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, on options for cooperation for the establishment of marine protected areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, and paragraph 42 of decision VIII/24. The Convention's Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing must complete its task of developing an international regime for access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use prior to the 2010 Conference of the Parties. Rio Group countries would be actively participating in activities commemorating the International Year of Biodiversity.

8. Desertification affected one fourth of the territory in Latin America and the Caribbean and soil degradation in particular was a serious and unprecedented problem in the region. As desertification would exacerbate the vulnerability of communities living in affected areas, especially indigenous communities, the Rio Group supported the work of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Regional Implementation Annex for Latin America and the Caribbean, and particularly, the results of the ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention. That would allow the region to continue to

implement measures and programmes on soil recovery for agriculture, land for production, techniques to prevent water scarcity in irrigation zones and access to financial mechanisms for the provision of resources to mitigate and reverse desertification.

9. While the region had contributed very little to climate change, it would suffer disproportionately from its impact, particularly affecting poor communities. Mitigation efforts must be strengthened. An effective, fair and long-term agreement must be reached at the Copenhagen Conference in December 2009, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities. The Rio Group fully supported the United Nations Framework Convention and other relevant negotiations. In line with their historic responsibility in the context of the Framework Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, developed countries must endeavour to achieve the ambitious goals of cutting emissions and financing, adaptation, technology transfer, international cooperation and capacity-building in developing countries.

10. Natural disasters caused a significant annual loss of lives and resources. The Rio Group was particularly hard hit by such phenomena, of which the frequency, scale and consequences were growing. International cooperation, especially regarding the transfer of technology for establishing early-warning systems, contingency plans and adaptation strategies was thus needed. There was also a need for convergence of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and national, regional and subregional disaster relief mechanisms should take both issues into account. The Rio Group was committed to strengthening the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and endorsed the results of the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction designed to provide strategic guidance and coherence for implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.

11. The production and consumption of illicit drugs also threatened sustainable development and had an adverse impact on the environment and social and economic consequences. The international community should broaden its regional and multilateral cooperation efforts and support countries' efforts in accordance with national policies.

12. **Mr. Lippwe** (Federated States of Micronesia), speaking on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States represented at the United Nations, namely, Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga, Vanuatu, and his own country, the Federated States of Micronesia, said that sustainable development was an issue of critical concern to those States owing to their geographic remoteness, limited economies of scale, narrow resource base, susceptibility to the impacts of climate change and severe disruption by natural disasters. Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy remained inadequate in the Pacific region, leaving the people in those islands in poverty. While some progress had been made in those States towards implementing adaptation strategies and addressing their vulnerabilities, and support had been received to that end, a number of hurdles remained, including limited technical, financial and human resources. The global economic crisis had exacerbated the lack of financial resources and threatened to further reduce support provided to those States. Donor assistance to deliver real outcomes for the people of those islands was needed. The international community must thus actively engage in the review of the Mauritius Strategy to ensure that real progress could be made.

13. Pledges to prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference in the climate system were insufficient. In the framework of the Alliance of Small Island States, the Pacific Small Island Developing States had clearly articulated the need for greenhouse gas emission reductions, with a view to keeping global temperatures from rising more than 1.5 degrees Centigrade above pre-industrial levels, and Alliance members had sought a rise as far below that as possible in the light of the predicted severe negative impacts on small island States of a warming of 2 degrees Centigrade, as predicted by the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Even with major emission cuts, the global temperature would continue to rise beyond small islands' capacity to adapt. Therefore, in addition to honouring the official development assistance (ODA) pledges made, developed countries should commit to providing 1 per cent of their gross national income to developing countries for adaptation and mitigation projects, and share advanced technologies for renewable energy and adaptation.

14. The Pacific Small Island Developing States would stand firm on their mitigation needs at the Copenhagen Conference; the quality of their future and, for some States, their very survival, depended on it. Accepting anything less would mean agreeing to drought and destruction of freshwater supplies, severe food production losses caused by flooding, erosion and saltwater intrusion into agricultural areas, ocean acidification and coral bleaching in their seas. Severe increases in the intensity and frequency of natural disasters would destroy communities, force displacement and cause loss of life. The melting of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets, not taken into account in the Fourth Assessment Report, would cause a major rise in sea levels which particularly threatened the low-lying atoll islands of Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu with loss of territorial integrity.

15. Renewable energy was key in helping to solve the climate crisis and to ensuring energy security. In the Pacific, a number of renewable energy sources were available and projects had been pursued to improve their uses, thereby reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Many Pacific islands had made strong commitments to increasing their use of renewable energy, even though the region's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions was negligible. In that regard, adequate financing and assistance with technological development were critical. The agreement to be reached in Copenhagen would need to facilitate access to new technologies, including access to intellectual property rights, to help strengthen the role of renewable energy.

16. **Mr. Bhattarai** (Nepal), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that the recent food, fuel and financial crises coupled with climate change had eroded potential to achieve the goals and commitments of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. For least developed countries to achieve sustainable economic development, increased investment in their economic growth and long-term economic development was needed, which required sincere implementation of internationally agreed commitments, including that of providing a given percentage of gross national product as ODA, and the commitments of the Brussels Programme of Action. The Fourth Conference of the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Turkey in 2011, would be an opportunity to strengthen global partnership for sustainable development in those countries, and its successful conclusion required active engagement by partners, the United Nations, multilateral agencies and the least developed countries. Developed countries must increase financial assistance to developing countries, reduce or cancel their debt, curb trade protectionism, open their markets, transfer technology and help build capacity in those countries.

17. Extreme poverty in least developed countries remained an obstacle to their sustainable development and must be addressed. The 2010 review of the Millennium Development Goals should further galvanize support for sustainable development in those countries. An increased international partnership for investment in sustainable and long-term agricultural development was essential for achieving food security, as was greater market access for agricultural products from least developed countries and stable commodity prices. Any response to the economic crisis should take into account the special vulnerability of least developed countries, and the outcomes of relevant meetings in the current year should be implemented through an action-oriented follow-up process.

18. Least developed countries, many of which were small island developing States, needed a sustainable framework for addressing adaptation and financial assistance in coping with the negative impact of climate change, for which they were least responsible. Increased availability of resources and technology for adaptation and broad participation by least developed countries in clean development mechanisms should be part of the sustainable development agenda and negotiations in any climate change deal. The post-Kyoto climate change agreement must not accept compromises on the sustainable development objectives of the least developed countries.

19. The need to adopt alternative, clean, green and renewable energy without compromising the development needs of the least developed countries should be part of the global sustainable development agenda. Increased use of crops for biofuels should take into account the food security needs of the most vulnerable population in the least developed countries. Also needed was a comprehensive framework for addressing the impacts of disasters in those countries — such as prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall, floods and extreme weather patterns — especially by building resilience to natural disasters, substantially reducing disaster risk and building capacity for disaster mitigation. The Hyogo Framework for Action should be implemented taking into account the special

vulnerability of those countries to natural disasters. Also, efforts to reduce social inequality must be strengthened at all levels in least developed countries.

20. The least developed countries attached great importance to the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development, especially those focusing on the need to address cross-cutting issues and to focus on the special needs of least developed countries. There should be a holistic, comprehensive, coherent approach, taking into account the special needs of the least developed countries. Genuine global partnership was required to strengthen the main pillars of sustainable development.

21. **Mr. Ramafole** (Lesotho), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), which aligned itself with the statement made by the representative of the Sudan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that mountains were natural development assets: they housed biodiversity, harboured much of the world's remaining biological heritage and attracted a great deal of eco-tourism. They were home to one tenth of the world's population, and contained most of the world's river sources, supplying water for domestic, agricultural and industrial use. However, mountain ecosystems were very fragile, and climate change, environmental degradation, exploitative mining and unsound agricultural practices constantly depleted the richness of their biological heritage. Natural and human activities exposed mountains and their inhabitants to the socio-economic ills of development, notably poverty, unemployment, human displacement, poor health and land degradation.

22. Targeted multisectoral intervention was thus needed including: promotion of integrated watershed development programmes through the effective participation of the local population in preventing further ecological disturbances; an integrated approach to conservation of land, water, plants, animals and human resources; development of early-warning systems and disaster-response teams; and promotion of alternative livelihood opportunities, particularly through development of employment schemes aimed at increasing the productive base. Institutional support was also needed to improve agricultural production and productivity on a sustained basis. While mountain regions shared many problems, the solutions were often very specific to particular micro-niches, even within the same area. Therefore, field-based scientific knowledge and human capacity-building were needed, as was contextualized and locally applicable research aimed at the protection and restoration of mountain ecosystems. The Community reiterated its support for the implementation of chapter 13 of Agenda 21, paragraph 40 of the World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of Implementation and the Tokyo Declaration for the International Year of Mountains (2002). He called on the global Mountain Partnership programme to extend its coverage to support sustainable mountain development initiatives especially in countries with low financial capacity.

23. **Mr. Sipangule** (Zambia), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group was committed to responding effectively, through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), to the challenges of poverty and the economic, financial and food crises which threatened to reverse decades of reforms geared towards making Africa more attractive to private capital and towards attaining the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In the context of NEPAD, there was a recognized need to align development with each country's priorities, particularly in coordination with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. The Commission on Sustainable Development must be strengthened and focus on actions that enabled implementation at all levels, as outlined in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The African Group supported the convening of a "Rio+20" Conference in 2012 to review implementation of Agenda 21, which would be a forum for identifying measures and creative approaches to overcome barriers to implementation.

24. The African Group called on the international community and particularly developed countries to honour their commitments under the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, with a view to increasing the financial and technical resources available to small island developing States. A coordinated, coherent and systematic approach would help to ensure the full and effective implementation of both initiatives. On the subject of disaster reduction, the Group supported the NEPAD Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and its Programme of Action and stressed the importance of full implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. While African countries were making efforts to build their resilience to disasters, the international community must support measures intended to improve their response capacity.

25. Africa was the continent most vulnerable to climate change, with limited capacity for adaptation, and its major economic sectors were also affected by existing developmental challenges such as poverty, ecosystem degradation and conflicts. The African Common Position on climate change (2008) and the Nairobi Declaration on the African Process for Combating Climate Change (2009) highlighted the imperative of addressing the impacts of climate change on national development efforts. The Common Position in particular identified an urgent need for enhanced human, institutional and systematic capacity-building initiatives for climate change mitigation and the provision of adequate and predictable financial and technical assistance for adaptation projects. It also proposed establishing partnerships based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The United Nations Framework Convention and initiatives such as the Secretary-General's initiative on climate change in September 2009 should help foster a united response to that issue. The outcome of the upcoming Copenhagen Climate Change Conference must recognize Africa's urgent need for support in the implementation of adaptation measures.

26. Desertification and land degradation posed a threat to the sustainable development, and the environment in particular, in Africa. He thus called for adequate and predictable resources to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and support for developing countries with capacity-building to gain more access to financial resources and technology transfer. The decisions reached at the ninth Conference of Parties to that Convention must also be implemented, particularly the proposal to establish a scientific body to monitor the phenomenon of desertification.

27. It was vital to make greater progress in implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to achieve a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. Current efforts to achieve that target were woefully insufficient.

28. A substantial increase in the contribution of renewable energy sources to the total energy supply was an urgent imperative. The Group recognized the need to diversify energy supply and to develop cleaner, more efficient, affordable and cost-effective energy technologies and ensure their transfer to developing countries on concessional terms as mutually agreed.

29. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) said that timely, comprehensive solutions based on shared but differentiated responsibilities must be found to the many challenges humanity currently faced, including that of climate change. Colombia was particularly vulnerable to climate change, with its 28 islands with more than 100,000 inhabitants, its long coastline, its mountain ecosystems and the world's second largest biodiversity reserve. Yet Colombia's average greenhouse gas emissions were lower than the Latin American average, which in turn was lower than the world average; indeed, with its 578,000 square kilometres of rainforest, Colombia was a net producer of oxygen and a small contributor of carbon dioxide. Colombia's *Familias Guardabosques* programme, supervised by the United Nations, involved more than 90,000 rural families in a collective endeavour to protect forests, keep them free from illicit crops and oversee their recovery. Incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries must be reflected appropriately in the future climate change regime, which should be flexible in order to recognize the efforts made by individual countries. The General Assembly should send a clear and creative message to the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference that reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive, just and ambitious agreement.

30. It was also necessary to adopt a legally binding international regime on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use, which was crucial for combating bio-piracy, protecting traditional knowledge and promoting the biodiversity heritage of countries like Colombia.

31. The Committee's resolution on new and renewable energy sources should go beyond repeating agreed wording and reflect the progress made in that area at the global, regional and national levels. The production and use of renewable energies were crucial to promoting economic and social development, protecting the environment and tackling climate change. In Colombia, 87 per cent of energy was derived from water and comprehensive policies had been promoted for the sustainable production and use of biofuels. Colombia was currently the leading biofuel producer and second-largest ethanol producer in Latin America, using sugar cane and African palm.

32. The General Assembly must address sustainable development in a comprehensive way in order to ensure coherence of international measures, with a

view to promoting global environmental well-being and economic stabilization and social progress, and to recover momentum towards attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, especially the goal of reducing poverty.

33. **Mr. Donovan** (United States of America) said that meeting the challenge of the global climate change crisis was a top priority for the Government of the United States, which had taken historic action domestically, including through a clean energy investment of more than $80 billion in its economic stimulus package and new vehicle efficiency standards. Efforts were also under way to advance comprehensive climate and energy legislation which aimed to reduce carbon emissions from 2005 levels by 17 per cent by 2020, and 83 per cent by 2050. While the United States must be a leader in the global effort to combat climate change, its action alone — or even action by the entire developed world — was not enough. Developing nations, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, including small islands and least developed countries, must be placed on a path to sustained growth. His Government was committed to reaching a strong international agreement to combat climate change and lead the world to a clean energy future, and was working hard to find consensus in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention.

34. The United States was actively creating policies to advance energy and climate security and would promote economic recovery efforts, accelerate job creation and promote clean energy manufacturing. It had made renewable energy a top priority. It had committed more than $80 billion for clean energy investment domestically, and had worked internationally to promote new and renewable sources of energy, through the 2008 Washington International Renewable Energy Conference and by becoming a signatory of the statute of the new International Renewable Energy Agency.

35. While the United States welcomed continued work and discussion on sustainable development, it was not convinced of the need for a "Rio+20" conference. There were already numerous agreements governing ongoing sustainable development efforts and another meeting might divert attention from those priorities. It was also necessary to consider whether a high-level meeting was the most effective use of limited resources. Above all, the United States advocated continuing progress towards existing commitments and spending on actions that produced results directly.

36. In the light of the work done by the Commission on Sustainable Development on agriculture, land use and related topics, and the important ongoing work on food security, the draft resolution on agricultural technology for development (A/C.2/64/L.21) was particularly relevant. The United States supported efforts to increase agricultural technology and innovation of all types and recognized its potential in developing countries to increase rural incomes while reducing poverty and hunger. He commended the UNEP Governing Council decisions on mercury and the new consultative process on international environmental governance in particular. While diverging opinions had emerged in that context, progress had been made to truly improve the governance system. It was important to remember that common priorities were shared in that debate: safeguarding the global environment and working towards sustainable development. The United States was committed to biodiversity conservation and to achieving the 2010 target to reduce significantly the rate of loss of biodiversity. Although progress had been made over the past five years, much remained to be done. Action beyond 2010 would be necessary to combat the current unacceptable levels of biodiversity loss. The United States thus supported developing a post-2010 framework on biodiversity.

37. **Mr. Liu** Yuyin (China) said that, in the context of the current crisis, international cooperation must be strengthened in order to move the sustainable development agenda forward. Monitoring and facilitation mechanisms should be set up to ensure that developed countries honoured their commitments to developing countries in that regard. The Commission on Sustainable Development, which was the only United Nations body with an integrated economic, social and environmental mandate, should be strengthened, while the entire system needed to follow up more effectively the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Chinese Government supported the proposal of Brazil to host a further summit on the subject in 2012; it attached great importance to sustainable development and had itself adopted a people-centred, comprehensive, balanced and sustainable development strategy, in harmony with nature.

38. Regarding the unique challenges faced by small island developing States in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, he stressed that the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy required the continued leadership of the United Nations, which should enlist greater support in evaluating the future vulnerabilities of the States concerned; it also called for a wide range of partnerships in order to help them meet the challenges.

39. On disaster reduction, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 would facilitate international and regional cooperation, in a spirit of humanity, neutrality and fairness and respect for the sovereignty of beneficiary countries. Emergency relief should be linked to post-disaster construction; technology and international mechanisms were needed to minimize the damage caused by disasters; and long-term, stable and predictable core resources must be secured for disaster reduction.

40. On climate change, negotiations were bogged down in questions about the desirability of adhering to the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the Bali Road Map, all of which continued to have China's full support. The Chinese Government had taken and would continue to take all necessary measures in response to climate change, even as it addressed the multiple challenges of economic development, poverty reduction, improving people's lives and environmental protection.

41. Lastly, China called on developed countries to honour their commitments to provide support for international efforts to combat desertification and technology and financing for developing countries to develop new sources of energy, while contributing to world energy security.

42. **Mr. Al-Fayez** (Saudi Arabia) said that improved access to energy resources was a key factor in poverty elimination and sustainable development. Saudi Arabia was therefore encouraging private and public investment to expand its energy production capacity. It was also fulfilling its commitment to protect the environment while seeking to enhance the competitiveness of its industries and integrate them locally, regionally and globally. It recognized the essential development role of the United Nations, which should give priority to economic development, social stability and environmental and population problems. Decisions needed to be adopted that would preserve the environment while contributing to global economic growth. Lastly, his delegation urged the international community to adhere to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities for addressing climate change and hoped that the Committee's deliberations would lead to practical policy choices that would overcome the obstacles to sustainable development.

43. **Mr. Si** Soon Beng (Singapore) said that, despite the progress made in implementing the Mauritius Strategy, much remained to be done. Support from the international community needed to be increased, in particular through technology transfer and capacity-building. Singapore, for its part, shared its experience and knowledge with other small island developing States under a specific technical cooperation programme. Since it was itself vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise and had rather scarce water resources, Singapore had developed an integrated approach to water cycle management, which included desalination and water reclamation. Moreover, under a new blueprint for sustainable development, it had set itself the goals of reducing per capita water consumption and raising energy efficiency. It was thus committed to doing its part to achieve global and regional sustainable development objectives, including those set out in the Mauritius Strategy.

44. **Mr. Andanje** (Kenya) said that sustainable development was the key to meeting the global challenges of poverty, food insecurity, climate change and energy security. His delegation accordingly supported the proposal to convene a Rio+20 conference on the subject in 2012. It was to be hoped that the Committee's deliberations would reconcile the differences of opinion regarding that event.

45. Kenya fully subscribed to the approaches of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and had put in place a national mechanism to complement regional and international strategies. Noting, however, that the efforts of many developing countries, including Kenya, to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action and other key aspects of disaster risk reduction were hampered by limited resources, he urged the international community to support those efforts through financing, capacity-building and

technology transfer. His delegation also called on developed countries to provide adequate and predictable financial and technical assistance to developing countries so as to enable them to respond to climate change while pursuing their development. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities was particularly important in that regard.

46. He expressed support for the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity. All countries should work towards the goal of significantly reducing by 2010 the current rate of loss of biological diversity, in line with the commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Particular issues to be addressed in that connection were benefit-sharing; ecosystem-based adaptation; financing for conservation efforts; capacity-building; and preservation of related traditional knowledge. Environment had a central role in sustainable development, for which the United Nations Environment Programme could provide leadership. His delegation therefore called on the United Nations to increase the regular budget allocation for that Programme so as to enable it to discharge its mandate effectively.

47. **Mr. Belaoura** (Algeria) said that, notwithstanding the notable progress made in implementing Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the world's most vulnerable people still faced the same challenges of poverty, malnutrition, underdevelopment and pandemic diseases, which affected their capacity to attain the internationally agreed goals. The time had come for an integrated, holistic and practical approach, involving all stakeholders, aimed at achieving sustainable development in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. To that end, his delegation called for a strengthening of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

48. In its efforts to combat desertification and deforestation, Algeria had always given precedence to measures to restore vegetation, including a recent operation for the designation of protected areas and a national soil conservation campaign. Algeria, which was chairing the Africa Group since the recent ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, intended to put in place a regional coordination mechanism, promote North-South and South-South cooperation for technology transfer and seek increased resources for the effective implementation of the 10-year strategic plan (2008-2018) to combat desertification.

49. Algeria had been in the forefront of the movement to address climate change, both internationally and nationally, and was particularly active in the development of clean energy sources. Its sustainable development strategy was based on an integrated approach, which took account of the climate threat and of all the country's specific environmental concerns. In accordance with the African common position on the subject, the response to climate change could not be dissociated from efforts to achieve the MDGs, particularly poverty reduction. He expressed the hope that the related ongoing negotiations would lead to an equitable agreement at the forthcoming Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change, with due regard for the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

50. **Mr. Das** (India) said that the current interlinked crises demanded an integrated approach to sustainable development with a threefold emphasis on economic development, social development and environmental protection. That was the key to achieving India's development goals, particularly the eradication of poverty and hunger. However, no developing country's efforts could replace the fulfilment of the commitments of developed countries.

51. He looked forward to a positive outcome in Copenhagen to the current negotiations on climate change, keyed to a central concern with equity and based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. It should acknowledge that developing countries needed to pursue accelerated development and required hugely scaled-up resources to address the challenge of climate change.

52. India accounted for a negligible part of total carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and, even as it pursued its development objectives, would never exceed the average per capita emissions of developed countries. Its climate change action plan gave particular importance to the promotion of renewable energy as part of its effort to ensure affordable energy for its people; that was a key to its priority goal of poverty eradication and required access to clean technologies. It was therefore seeking to promote technology transfer, particularly through public

funding. Lastly, on the question of the Convention on Biological Diversity, India attached special importance to the ongoing negotiations on a related international regime, which should include mandatory disclosure of country of origin of genetic resources; prior informed consent to intellectual property rights applications; and equitable sharing of benefits.

53. **Ms. Roesch** (Guatemala) expressed concern that the prospect of an agreement on climate change seemed increasingly remote. Because that was a global long-term phenomenon, it demanded a strong, coordinated, multilateral response and required countries to look beyond their national horizons. The themes of transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, to be addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its forthcoming eighteenth session, were particularly relevant and should lead to practical, action-oriented and well-funded policy decisions; the present Committee's discussions should focus on how they could be better integrated within the three pillars of sustainability.

54. **Mr. Mbuende** (Namibia) said that Agenda 21 and subsequent conferences on sustainable development had demonstrated that socio-economic development and environmental protection should go hand in hand. The problem remained, however, of fully anchoring sustainable development in rural development plans and strategies, particularly in view of the threat posed by environmental degradation to the livelihoods of rural people. Most developing countries had built programmes and policies around the three pillars of sustainable development but lacked the financial, technological and human capacity to attain their targets. For Namibia, the key was to integrate community-based natural resource management into agriculture and rural development since, in order to ensure natural resource sustainability and conserve biological diversity, rural communities needed to have a sense of ownership of the process of sustainable development and draw benefits from it. In that context, he reiterated the call for support for a sustainable green revolution in Africa, taking into account the critical contribution that could be made to it by small-scale farmers and women farmers. Moreover, in efforts to combat desertification, attention should focus not only on prevention but also on the rehabilitation of degraded land.

55. The current financial and economic crisis did not bode well for sustainable development. It had been reflected in a decline in development financing at a time of increased demand for infrastructure restoration and development, in the wake of natural disasters. Changes in the nature and intensity of disasters called for new response capabilities. His delegation therefore appealed to the international community to support Namibia's efforts to develop its disaster risk reduction capacity.

56. The developed countries should take the lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, because of their historical responsibility. His delegation was concerned about reports that some developed countries were thinking of withdrawing from the Kyoto Protocol; that would jeopardize the outcome of the forthcoming Copenhagen meeting. He also expressed concern about the lack of coordination between the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Mechanism established under that Convention; it ran counter to the goal of a coherent United Nations development system and, if it persisted, would impair the Organization's ability to address sustainable land use management effectively.

57. **Mr. Guillén** (Peru), referring to the water shortages suffered by his country as a result of climate change, expressed the hope that the Copenhagen meeting would result in binding international commitments to combat its adverse effects and, in particular, that developed countries would undertake to reduce their carbon emissions by 45 per cent and 95 per cent from the 1990 levels by 2020 and 2050 respectively. Peru continued to be in favour of the establishment of a financial mechanism to support climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in developing countries through a $0.5 levy on each barrel of oil sold; it also supported integrated programmes and plans to that end, financed by the Global Environment Fund or the World Bank.

58. His delegation was also concerned about deforestation, particularly of the Amazon, for the purposes of cocaine production. Urgent measures were needed to combat drug trafficking and related activities, under the shared responsibility of the international community; they should include not only prohibition and prevention but also rehabilitation and sustainable alternatives to coca cultivation.

59. He called, lastly, for increased investment in sustainable mountain development, particularly through innovative financing mechanisms, and for greater recourse to traditional knowledge and know-how in the framing of policies for mountain areas; mountain-related issues should also be more fully taken into account in deliberations on responses to climate change and desertification.

60. **Mr. Hart** (Nigeria) said that efforts to achieve sustainable development had been jeopardized not only by the current global recession but also by the impact of climate change, especially in Africa and small island developing States, which had reduced their capacity to respond to challenges for which they bore little or no responsibility. Nigeria, whose overall development capacity had been particularly affected, nevertheless remained committed to sustainable development and was continuing to take measures to that end, with due regard for sound environment policy and practice, national security, good governance and health, and with special attention to the groups most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. It had developed schemes to protect its biodiversity and mitigate the effects of drought and desertification, as well as contributing to all other African regional environmental initiatives.

61. His delegation called for a campaign to increase awareness of environmental challenges, particularly in developing countries, with emphasis on the responsibility of all for sustainable development. In that spirit, he looked forward to the conclusion of a comprehensive agreement at the Copenhagen meeting that would ensure substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, facilitate the transfer of clean and renewable energy technologies and improve financing and capacity-building for developing countries, particularly in Africa, which had drawn up a body of common proposals to that end.

62. **Mr. Meñez** (Philippines) said that the current period of great challenges called for a renewed dedication to the spirit of multilateralism and for more equitable sharing of the costs and benefits of globalization. The increasing number of extreme weather incidents highlighted the need for a stronger international response to climate change, particularly through increased efforts to implement the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, while negotiations with a view to the upcoming meeting in Copenhagen must ensure better compliance with commitments under the Framework Convention on Climate Change. Greater attention needed to be given to addressing the roots of the food crisis, which lay in agriculture, food production and biodiversity; in view indeed of the steady decline in ODA in agriculture, as well as unsustainable agricultural practices, increased population pressure and climate fluctuations, there was a pressing need for greater cooperation, both regionally and internationally. His country was doing its part to promote such cooperation and was at the same time striving for greater energy efficiency and conservation, more secure and affordable energy supplies and renewable, green technology. It was the world's largest producer of thermal energy and was playing a leading role in the development of a green industry. However, the efforts of individual countries were not enough: the fragile global ecosystem could be healed only by all nations acting in concert.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.